

29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Letter from the Principal

I hope this letter finds you all well. Firstly, a big thank you to all families who promoted BOA to their friends and acquaintances, in support of our virtual open events. We enjoyed really good attendance to the online webinars and our promotional materials have been viewed regularly. I'm happy to report that we have received high numbers of applications, despite the barriers put in place by COVID-19.

Prime Minister's announcement regarding schools re-opening on 8th March:

On Wednesday 27th January, PM Boris Johnson announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. Education settings, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education. Schools and colleges will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other pupils will continue to receive remote education at home

Exam boards' announcements regarding assessments in May and June 2021:

The consultation on alternative arrangements for examinations ends today, Friday 29th January 2021. At the moment, we do know that the examinations will be replaced by some form of teacher assessment. We will hopefully receive guidance on the format of these assessments ahead of the February half term and I will be in contact as soon as I receive any news. Exam boards have commented, however, that they have been asked to prepare assessment materials that schools and colleges will use to inform teacher assessments, and that these will most likely be delivered in May and June 2021.

NB: It is important that all students in Year 11 and Year 13 continue to attend the online lessons for all of their subjects so that, a) teachers are able to deliver curriculum content and cover any gaps in knowledge, and b) teachers are able to gather evidence that may be used to inform centre-assessed grades. Whereas it may be difficult to complete some of the practical work needed for certain BTEC and GCSE units, students can still complete the research and theory-based elements of these units. We will contact you over the next few days if we have any concerns about your child's attendance during online lessons.

'Good news' stories:

Congratulations to Roxanne Jones-Whale in Year 10, who won the Urdang International Dance Competition in November 2020. Amazing news!

Congratulations to Mr Elias (Director of Musical Theatre) who will be filming scenes over half-term for the forthcoming feature film, *Save the Cinema*. The film stars Samantha and Jonathan Pryce, and will also feature eight of our Post-16 Musical Theatre students.

If you have any similar stories to share, please email me at principal@boa-academy.co.uk

Next time:

As well as sharing updates regarding centre-assessed grades and teacher assessment (following the consultation period with Ofqual), I will write next weeks with details of: Year 10 Work Experience; Year 11 and Year 13 assessments, scheduled for w/c 22nd February; an update on the reopening on BOA in March 2021.

Until I write again, I wish you all the best and hope you all stay safe.

Yours truly,



Alistair Chattaway
Principal

1 Grosvenor Street, Birmingham, B4 7QD

email: principal@boa-academy.co.uk

tel: 0121 359 9300

web: www.boa-academy.co.uk

 : @ImagineBOA

 : www.facebook.com/imagineBOA